Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 27 and 29-33. Please amend Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22 and 34 . Please add new Claims 35-42. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (currently amended): A method of promoting healing of a chronic ~~dermal~~ skin ulcer on a subject, said method comprising the step of contacting the chronic ~~dermal~~ skin ulcer with an effective amount of an agonist of the non-proteolytically activated thrombin receptor, alone or in combination with an antimicrobial, a disinfectant, an antibiotic, an analgesic or an anti-inflammatory agent.

2. (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein the chronic ~~dermal~~ skin ulcer is a diabetic ulcer.

3. (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein the chronic ~~dermal~~ skin ulcer is a decubitus ulcer, a venous stasis ulcer or an arterial ulcer.

4. (previously presented): The method of Claim 1 wherein the agonist is a thrombin peptide derivative.

5. (currently amended): The method of Claim 4 wherein the agonist is (a) a thrombin peptide derivative ~~having the amino acid sequence~~ represented by R1-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Lys-Pro-Asp-Glu-Gly-Lys-Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala-Cys-Glu-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-Phe-Val-R2 (SEQ ID NO.: 5), wherein:

   R1 is -H or R3-C(O)-;

   R2 is -OH or -NR4R5;

R3 is -H or a C1-C6 alkyl group; and

R4 and R5 are independently -H, a C1-C6 alkyl group or, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group[[;]], provided that zero, one, two or three amino acids at positions 1-9 and 14-23 in the thrombin peptide derivative differ from the amino acid at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO.: 5; (b) an *N*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide derivative ~~having~~ at least fourteen amino acids long; or (c) a *C*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide derivative ~~having~~ at least eighteen amino acids long.

6. (original): The method of Claim 5 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -NH2.

7. (original): The method of Claim 5 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -OH.

8. (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~4~~ 5 wherein the agonist is (a) a thrombin peptide derivative ~~has the amino acid sequence~~ represented by R1-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Lys-Pro-Asp-Glu-Gly-Lys-Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala-Cys-Glu-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-Phe-Val-R2 (SEQ ID NO.: 5), provided that zero, one, two or three amino acids at positions 1-9 and 14-23 in the thrombin peptide derivative are conservative substitutions of the amino acid at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO.: 5; (b) an *N*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide derivative ~~having~~ at least fourteen amino acids long; or (c) a *C*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide derivative ~~having~~ at least eighteen amino acids long.

9. (original): The method of Claim 8 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -NH2.

10. (original): The method of Claim 8 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -OH.

11. (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~8~~ 5 wherein the agonist is (a) a thrombin peptide derivative ~~has the amino acid sequence~~ represented by R1-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Lys-Pro-Asp-Glu-Gly-Lys-Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala-Cys-X1-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-X2-Val-R2 (SEQ ID NO.: 2), wherein X1 is Glu or Gln and X2 is Phe, Met, Leu, His or Val; or (b) an *N*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide derivative ~~having~~ at least fourteen amino acids long; or (c) a *C*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide derivative ~~having~~ at least eighteen amino acids long.

12. (original): The method of Claim 11 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -NH2.

13. (original): The method of Claim 11 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -OH.

14. (currently amended): The method of Claim 11 wherein the agonist is (a) a thrombin peptide derivative ~~has the amino acid sequence~~ represented by R1-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Lys-Pro-Asp-Glu-Gly-Lys-Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala-Cys-Glu-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-Phe-Val-R2 ~~(SEQ ID NO.: 2)~~ (SEQ ID NO: 5); (b) an *N*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide derivative ~~having~~ at least fourteen amino acids long; or (c) a *C*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide derivative ~~having~~ at least eighteen amino acids long.

15. (original): The method of Claim 14 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -NH2.

16. (original): The method of Claim 14 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -OH.

17. (currently amended): ~~A~~ The method of Claim 4 wherein the thrombin peptide derivative ~~has the amino acid sequence~~ is represented by H-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Lys-Pro-Asp-Glu-Gly-Lys-Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala-Cys-Glu-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-Phe-Val-NH2 (SEQ ID NO.: 6).

18. (currently amended): A method ~~of Claim 4~~ wherein the agonist is (a) a thrombin peptide derivative ~~has the amino acid sequence~~ represented by R1-Asp-Asn-Met-Phe-Cys-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Lys-Pro-Asp-Glu-Gly-Lys-Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala-Cys-Glu-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-Phe-Val-Met-Lys-Ser-Pro-Phe-R2 (SEQ ID NO.: 3), wherein:

R1 is -H or R3-C(O)-;

R2 is -OH or -NR4R5;

R3 is -H or a C1-C6 alkyl group; and

R4 and R5 are independently -H, a C1-C6 alkyl group or, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group[[;]], provided that zero, one, two or three amino acids at positions 1-14 and 19-33 of the thrombin peptide derivative differ from the amino acid at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO.: 3; (b) an *N*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide derivative ~~having~~ at least fourteen amino acids long; or (c) a *C*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide derivative ~~having~~ at least eighteen amino acids long.

19. (original): The method of Claim 18 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -NH2.

20. (original): The method of Claim 18 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -OH.

21. (currently amended): The method of Claim 18 wherein the agonist is (a) a thrombin peptide derivative ~~has the amino acid sequence~~ represented by R1-Asp-Asn-Met-Phe-Cys-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Lys-Pro-Asp-Glu-Gly-Lys-Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala-Cys-Glu-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-Phe-Val-Met-Lys-Ser-Pro-Phe-R2 (SEQ ID NO.: 3), provided that zero, one, two or three amino acids at positions 1-14 and 19-33 of the thrombin peptide derivative are conservative substitutions of the amino acid at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO.: 3); (b) an *N*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide

derivative ~~having~~ at least fourteen amino acids long; or (c) a ~~an~~ *C*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide derivative ~~having~~ at least eighteen amino acids long.

22. (currently amended): The method of Claim 18 wherein the agonist is (a) a thrombin peptide derivative ~~has the amino acid sequence~~ represented by R1-Asp-Asn-Met-Phe-Cys-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Lys-Pro-Asp-Glu-Gly-Lys-Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala-Cys-X1-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-X2-Val-Met-Lys-Ser-Pro-Phe-R2 (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein X1 is Glu or Gln and X2 is Phe, Met, Leu, His or Val; (b) an *N*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide derivative ~~having~~ at least fourteen amino acids long; or (c) a *C*-terminal truncated fragment of the thrombin peptide derivative ~~having~~ at least eighteen amino acids long.

23. (original): The method of Claim 22 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -NH2.

24. (original): The method of Claim 22 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -OH.

25. (original): The method of Claim 22 wherein X1 is Glu and X2 is Phe.

26. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the subject is a companion animal, a farm animal or a laboratory animal.

27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented): The method of Claim 4 wherein the thrombin peptide derivative comprises a *C*-terminal amide.

29-33. (cancelled)

34. (currently amended): A method of promoting healing of a chronic ~~dermal~~ skin ulcer on a subject, said method comprising the step of contacting the ~~dermal~~ skin ulcer with an effective amount of a thrombin peptide derivative which ~~has the amino acid sequence~~ is represented by H-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Lys-Pro-Asp-Glu-Gly-Lys-Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala-Cys-Glu-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-Phe-Val-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO.: 6).

35. (new): A method of promoting healing of a skin ulcer in a subject, said method comprising contacting the skin ulcer with an effective amount of an agonist of the non-proteolytically activated thrombin receptor, alone or in combination with an antimicrobial, a disinfectant, an antibiotic, an analgesic or an anti-inflammatory agent, said agonist comprising a thrombin receptor binding domain and a serine esterase conserved sequence.

36. (new): The method according to Claim 35 wherein the thrombin receptor binding domain comprises the sequence Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala (SEQ ID NO: 7).

37. (new): The method of Claim 36 wherein said agonist is a peptide 14 to 23 amino acids long.

38. (new): The method of Claim 35 wherein said serine esterase conserved sequence comprises (Asp-X_1-Cys-X_2-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-X_3-Val; SEQ ID NO: 9), wherein X_1 is either Ala or Ser; X_2 is either Glu or Gln; and X_3 is either Phe, Met, Leu, His, or Val.

39. (new): The method of Claim 35 wherein said serine esterase conserved sequence comprises Asp-Ala-Cys-Glu-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-Phe-Val (SEQ ID NO: 8).

40. (new): The method of Claim 35 wherein said agonist is represented by R1-Ala-Gly-Tyr-Lys-Pro-Asp-Glu-Gly-Lys-Arg-Gly-Asp-Ala-Cys-Glu-Gly-Asp-Ser-Gly-Gly-Pro-Phe-Val-R2 (SEQ ID NO: 5), wherein:

R1 is -H or R3-C(O)-;

R2 is -OH or -NR4R5;

R3 is -H or a C1-C6 alkyl group; and

R4 and R5 are independently -H, a C1-C6 alkyl group or, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, a non-aromatic heterocyclic group.

41. (new): The method of Claim 40 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -NH2.

42. (new): The method of Claim 40 wherein R1 is -H and R2 is -OH.